

Remarks/Arguments:

Remarks

Claims 6-11 are pending. Claims 6-11 stand rejected.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 has been objected-to because the term "PTS" is not clear. Claim 8 has now been amended by defining the term "PTS" as Protocol Type Selection. It will be appreciated that a "PTS" exchange is an exchange that includes a request and an answer between one unit and another unit, regarding a communications protocol to be selected. The PTS exchange is defined in IEC/ISO 7816. Furthermore, when the transmission protocol is T=0, the IC card can retransmit data in character units.

The features of claim 8 have now been included in claim 6. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 6-11 have been rejected as being anticipated by Shona. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 6 now includes the following features, which are not disclosed by the cited reference, namely:

- receiving means that receives a signal transmitted from an IC card . . .
- a Protocol Type Selection (PTS) flag **identifying a transmission protocol for the IC card**, that is **set** by the receiving means **only when the IC card can retransmit the data in character units . . .**
- The re-transmission request means **requests the IC card to retransmit** the received data **when . . . the PTS flag has been set.**

Basis for the PTS flag is shown, for example, in Fig. 7, as feature 307 for generating a PTS flag in response to a communication from CPU 101. As discussed in the specification, for example, at page 45, lines 1-5, before the data reception, CPU 101 identifies the transmission protocol for IC card 109, after a PTS exchange with IC card 109, as defined by IEC/ISO 7816. The PTS flag is set, when the transmission protocol is T=0.

As also shown, for example, in Fig. 7, the PTS flag is sent to switching section 301 **only** when the CPU is receiving data from the IC card. The PTS flag is **not** sent to switching section 301, when the CPU is transmitting data to the IC card.

As now set forth in amended claim 6, **the PTS flag identifies a transmission protocol for the IC card, that is set by the receiving means only when the IC card can retransmit the data in character units.**

Shona, on the other hand, discloses a method of controlling an IC card reader/writer using a UART circuit, as shown in Fig. 3. Shona, at column 4, lines 25-27, discloses that **a flag is set** by controller 42 **during transmission** of data from the CPU to the IC card. Similarly, Shona discloses at column 6, lines 5-9, that the same flag is also set during reception of data from the IC card to the CPU. Shona discloses using this flag as a frame violation flag, indicating a framing error. This flag is set to identify an error.

Shona, however, does **not** disclose or suggest a **PTS flag that is used for identifying a transmission protocol for an IC card**. Furthermore, Shona does **not** disclose a **PTS flag that is set only when the IC card can retransmit the data in character units**.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for amended claim 6. Claims 7 and 9-11 depend from amended claim 6 and are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 6.

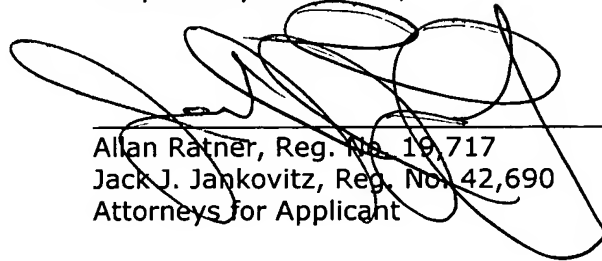
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Conclusion

Claims 6-7 and 9-11 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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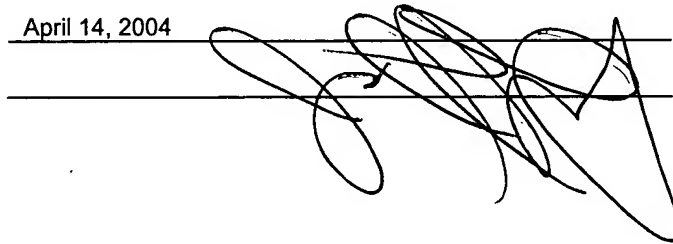
Dated: April 14, 2004

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